MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, these high security number plates are to be implemented with effect from 1st January, 2004. All the new vehicles that will be registered from that date onwards will have to have these plates. Thereafter, within another two years, the existing vehicles will also be required to have these registration plates. The logic is that whatever safety and security features are required, they are required for all the vehicles and not for the new vehicles only.

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Sir, my second supplementary is: what are the details of the orders placed with each company for the supply of new plates and, in what manner the allocation has been made?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Let me clarify the procedure. I think there is incomplete knowledge about the procedure. As far as the Central Government is concerned, we do only three things. We lay down the specifications or the standards. We identify the testing agencies. There are five testing agencies, which have been identified. These are belonging to various Ministries and not to my Ministry and thirdly, we fix the date by which these will be implemented.

As far as the selection of vendors, the tender document, the contracts to be given and other various jobs are concerned, all this is to be dealt with totally by the States. Therefore, I can only give the names of the people or the firms who have so far acquired the test approvals but I cannot give the details as to who have or who have not been given. In any case, presently nothing is happening because the matter is pending in the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 150.

Landline telephone connections in Mumbai

*150. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the landline connections of MTNL and other private telephone operators in Mumbai; and

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected by MTNL in Mumbai from January, 2001 to 31st December, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As on 31.1.2003 MTNL Mumbai had 24,06,945 landline connections and the only private operator in Mumbai namely M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd. had 1,26,055 landline connections in Mumbai as on that date.

(b) A total of 3,68,202 telephones were disconnected by the MTNL Mumbai during the period 1st January, 2001 to 31st December 2002. Out of this 1,64,431 telephones were disconnected due to non-payment and 2,03,771 as per request of customer. However during the same period there is a net addition of 12,909 connections at the MTNL Mumbai network.

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति महोदय, प्रश्नकाल समाप्त होने में सिर्फ 2 मिनट बाकी हैं, इसलिए मैं तेजी से अपना सवाल पूछ लेता हूं। मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि पिछले 2 सालों में 3,68,000 टेलीफोन कनेक्शन कट गए हैं जिनमें से 1,64,000 नॉन-पेमेंट की वजह से कटे हैं। बाकी जो 2,03,000 टेलीफोन कनेक्शन कस्टमर्स की रिक्वैस्ट पर कटे हैं, उसके क्या कारण हैं? दूसरा सवाल मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो सवा दो लाख के आस-पास टेलीफोन कनेक्शन कट गए हैं, क्या वे प्राइवेट सैक्टर की तरफ शिफ्ट हुए हैं? क्या इस तरह का क ई सर्वे हुआ है? आपके पास इसका कोई रिकॉर्ड है?

श्री अरुण शौरी: सभापति महोदय, यह बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। MTNL मुंबई और दिल्ली में स्टिफ कंपीटीशन फेस कर रहा है। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि नवंबर और जनवरी में जो 9,325 टेलीफोन कंज्यूमर्स की रिक्वैस्ट पर टर्मिनेट हुए थे, उनका कंपलीट सर्वे किया गया। वे आंकड़े मेरे पास हैं कि यूज़र्स ने क्या कहा कि हम क्यों छोड़ रहे हैं? इसके मुख्य कारण इस प्रकार थे-

1. Closure of company or firm; क्योंकि इस दौरान IT Companies and Internet Service Provider Companies बंद हो गई थीं। इसलिए उनके 10-15 फोन कट गए थे।

2. Shift within Bombay. अगर आप एक तरफ से दूसरी तरफ जाते हैं तो आप क्लोज़ करते हैं और दूसरी तरफ खोलते हैं।

3. Miscellaneous reasons. 15 प्रतिशत फोन इस वजह से काटे गए हैं।

4. Financial problems हैं उन कंपनियों की।

महोदय, कुल मिलाकर 12 कारण थे। उनका सर्वे किया गया और इसके लिए करेक्टिव मैज़र्स लिए जा रहे हैं। इसमें मुख्य कारण यह है कि लोग अब फिक्सड पोज़ीशन फोन से मोबाइल फोन की ओर जा रहे हैं। WLL खुलने से और Cellular Services के खुलने से लोग उस तरफ जा रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Disinvestment of PSUs

*141. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Politics stalled NALCO sale' which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 2nd November, 2002;

(b) whether disinvestment process of NALCO, EIL, RCF, Neyvelli Lignite Corporation Limited and BEML are being delayed, deliberately; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not moving fast on the disinvestment of the above PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for disinvestment of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML). Government has not yet decided about disinvestment in Neyveli Lignite Company Ltd. (NLC). Government has decided to defer the consideration of proposal of disinvestment in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd. (RCF). Disinvestment in Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) are at different stages of process. In the case of NALCO, the plant visit by the Qualified Interested Parties (QIPs) was suspended due to agitation with effect from 29th October, 2002.